DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS VARIOUS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Honor waits, o'er all the earth, The art that calls her harvests forth.—BRYANT.

VOL. I. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1849. NO. 24.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

PREPARE FOR WINTER.

THE hoarse winds are already sighing a requiem to the gay season, and the surly blast of Winter will soon be here, with his reign of terror to those who are unprepared. Farmers have a great deal to do to get ready for his approach, and no opportunity should be neglected to have every thing in readiness. As the days are short, early rising is important to success, that animals may be fed in season, and every thing ready to commence labor as soon as it is light enough to see to work; and a brisker action may be borne than in the hot days, for if it produce a little fatigue, the long nights of rest will recruit and invigorate the system.

Trees that have been newly set should be protected by heaping up the earth around them, to keep the roots warm, and support the tree against the winds; for if left swinging in the winds, when the ground is soft, it will be loosened in the roots, and the water will run down around them, which, with the frost, may destroy them. Those who object to fall transplanting, probably do not set their trees well. We have set many trees from the last of September to December, and never lost one set at this season. Carefully protect trees from cattle, or they will destroy them when feed is scarce.

Fences should be kept up to keep animals from grass lands, for soft lands are much injured by being poached by them, to say nothing of the injury from close feeding.

Manure should be removed from the barn-yard, hogpen, and other depositories, to a convenient place for using in the spring; and such places of deposit should be abundantly replenished with peat, mud, muck, loam, sand or gravel, to absorb the liquid manure, and to combine with the solid parts to save them from waste. Dig mud and peat, and if convenient, haul them to where they will be wanted, that they may be exposed to the influence of the frost, in order to decompose and mollify them, and render them better prepared as a good mellow manure. To this purpose, they should not lie in very large or thick heaps, as, in that case, the frost would not act on the middle or bottom of the heap.

Ploughing.—Many soils are improved by fall ploughing, as they become more mellow by freezing and thawing. Witch-grass and weeds are often destroyed by fall ploughing; and it often destroys insects, particularly in very changeable or open winters, as those are called that are occasionally mild, and the ground bare. But were there no advantage in fall ploughing, as to the soil, it is well to attend to as a matter of convenience, when the teams are strong, and in order to do all that is possible to forward the work for the busy season of spring. When ploughed lands are liable to be washed, drains should be made to direct the water from them.

Stock of every description should be protected against inclement weather, and kept in good condition by feeding from the barn, as the feed fails in the pasture or field. An animal in good flesh can be wintered much cheaper than a poor one, and it will be far more productive in labor, milk, or as a mother; and when it becomes poor late in fall, it can be put in good condition, in the cold season, only by extra keeping. Animals in good flesh endure the cold much better than lean ones, and they are less liable to diseases.

Fuel.—Farmers should prepare sufficient fuel in the fall and winter to last them through the season, as it is very unpleasant, and a serious disadvantage, to leave other work in the busy seasons of spring or summer to prepare fuel. Green or damp wood split in November, and exposed to sun and air, will become very much improved for winter use. There is a great loss, both of fuel and time, in using green wood.

Vegetables of every description should be secured against frost. Cabbages and turnips may remain out late, as they keep better in the field than in the cellar. If gathered early, they shrivel and lose their good qualities. They will endure severe frosts without injury. But be cautious and secure them in season, lest the ground freeze, and then storms and perhaps snow succeed, and winter sets in without an opportunity to secure them. In the northern parts of New England, these vegetables should be secured early in November, in this latitude by the middle or 20th of this month.

FRUIT CONVENTIONS.

The first general fruit convention held in this country was that held at Buffalo, September, 1848, called the "*North American Pomological Convention.*" Another and separate convention was held in the city of New York, in October, called the "*American Congress of Fruit-Growers.*" At the late meeting of the former convention at Syracuse, N. Y., a committee was appointed to confer with the latter association, at their recent meeting, with a view of forming a union of the two, which desirable purpose was effected, under the name of "*American Pomological Congress.*" The next annual meeting will be held in Cincinnati.

WRINGING THE GRAPE-VINE.

A friend showed some very fine Isabella grapes to us a few weeks ago, that were larger than usual, both in bunch and berry, which he said were produced by girdling or wringing the vine. About the time the fruit sets, he takes from the vine a wring of the bark, about an inch in length. This prevents the return of the sap in the bark, and it is applied to the nourishment of that branch, and the fruit is not only larger, but it ripens considerably earlier.

In the fall, the extending bark, on each side the wring, becomes nearly united. If it does not unite, all the vine above the wring will die. This mode would be well adapted to cane pruning; the girdled vines would be cut out in fan pruning.

THE WHEAT CROP OF TEXAS.

We are sorry to learn from the Houston (Texas) Register, that the wheat crop of the north-eastern counties has almost entirely failed, owing to the frost in the spring, and the wet weather. In most of the counties on the Upper Trinity, scarcely five bushels have been raised per acre this year. The crops in those counties generally average twenty-five bushels. In Denton, Dallas, and Collin counties, the crops will scarcely average four bushels an acre. The crops in the Red River counties will scarcely exceed ten bushels. Fortunately, however, the corn crop in those counties is excellent this season, and there will be no scarcity of breadstuffs. — *North Am. Farmer.*

POTATOES.

From year to year, we have carefully chronicled the appearance of the potato crop as it approached the season of maturity. We have this year made many inquiries of our farmers, and they uniformly state that the tubers of this crop are more numerous and agreeable than at any time since the peculiar decay, which has of late years proved so destructive, first began, and no more signs of unsoundness were exhibited than were known in the "palmiest" and mealiest days of this valuable esculent. For many years, we have had extremely wet weather when the potato was in the most critical period of its growth. This had undoubtedly contributed very greatly to their decay, if it had not been the cause. This year, the weather has not been particularly favorable — the roots having never been more than sufficiently moistened. We apprehend this is the true reason of the change, although, from the universality of the former loss, it may be fully inferred that the disease had its origin in some unknown atmospheric phenomena. Hereafter, the year of the cholera will probably be remembered as the year when this crop recovered its ancient vigor and excellence. — *Buffalo Com. Adv.*

POINTS OF THE HORSE.

A point of great importance in the fore-leg of a horse, is the proper setting of the arm, which should be strong, muscular, and long. By the length of this part in the hare, added to the obliquity of the shoulder, she can extend her fore-parts farther than any other animal of her size; in fact, she strikes nearly as far as the greyhound that pursues her, by the help of this lever. The proper position of the arm of the horse, however, is the result of an oblique shoulder. When issuing from an upright shoulder, the elbow-joint, the centre of motion here, will be inclined inward; the horse will be what is termed *pinned in his elbows*, which causes his legs to fall powerless behind his body. A full and swelling fore-arm is one of the most valuable points in a horse, for whatever purpose he may be required.

If sportsmen were to see the knee of a horse dissected, they would pay more attention to the form and substance of it than they generally do. It is a very complicated joint, but so beautifully constructed that it is seldom subject to internal injury. Its width and breadth, however, are great recommendations, as admitting space for the attachment of muscles, and for the accumulation of ligamentous expansions and bands, greatly conducive to strength. The shank or cannon-bone can scarcely be too short. It should be flat, with the back sinews strong, detached, and well braced. This constitutes what is called a *wiry leg.* Round legs are almost sure to fail.

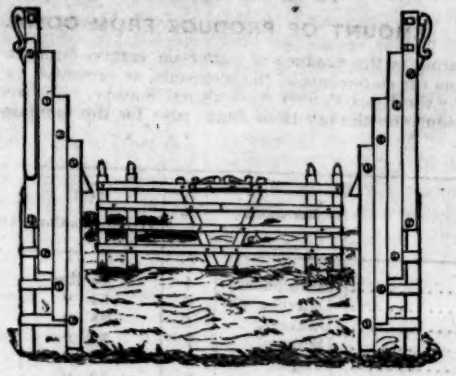
As to the size of a horse, it may be remarked that no very large animal has strength in proportion to its size. That the horse has not, the pony affords proof, if any other were wanting. There have been many instances of horses, little more than fourteen hands high, being equal to the speed of hounds over the stoniest counties in England; for example, Mr. William Coke's *Pony*, as he was called, many years celebrated in Leicestershire. — *Abridged from an Essay on the Horse.*

HOW TO SUBDUE A VICIOUS HORSE.

A correspondent of the New York Commercial gives the following account of the method adopted by an officer in the United States service, lately returned from Mexico, to subdue a horse who would not allow his feet to be handled for the purpose of shoeing: —

"He took a cord about the size of a common bed cord, put it in the mouth of the horse like a bit, and tied it tightly on the top of the animal's head, passing his left ear under the string, not painfully tight, but tight enough to keep the ear down, and the cord in its place. This done, he patted the horse gently on the side of his head, and commanded him to follow; and instantly the horse obeyed, perfectly subdued, and as gentle and obedient as a well-trained dog; suffering his feet to be lifted with entire impunity, and acting in all respects like an old stager. That simple string thus tied made him at once as docile and obedient as any one could desire. The gentleman who thus furnished this exceedingly simple means of subduing a very dangerous propensity, intimated that it is practised in Mexico and South America in the management of wild horses."

The flee jumps two hundred times its own length, which is equal to a quarter of a mile for a man.



SMITH'S VERTICAL GATE.

[The cut represents a large gate open, and a smaller one shut.]

The attention of the public is requested to the above gate, recently invented and patented by Lorenzo Smith, Easton, Mass. This gate *does not swing*, but opens *vertically* by a parallel movement of the rails. Its superiority to the gate in common use may be readily seen. As it does not swing, there can be *no sagging*; thus avoiding a great objection to the swing gate. It requires no ground to swing upon; consequently it can be opened or shut while teams, carts, or carriages, are standing close to it, or with a snow bank on both sides of it. It is opened and shut much quicker than the ordinary gate, and a man on horseback can open it without alighting. For very heavy gates it is designed to have weights attached to the ends of the rails, to assist in raising them; but gates of ordinary size do not require weights. This gate is more especially intended for carriage ways, but is admirably calculated for the doors of stables, and other places where the common gate cannot be used, and also may be made *single*, for footpaths and narrow passages. It costs no more than the swing gate, (including the posts,) and is less liable to get out of order, and more easily repaired, if repairs are needed. The practical operation of the Vertical Gate has been thoroughly tested, and, so far as known, meets with universal favor.

☞ A model of this gate may be seen in the room adjoining the office of the New England Farmer.

REVIEW OF THE WOOL MARKET

FOR OCTOBER.

We copy the following review of the wool market from the Wool-Grower. The editor, Mr. Peters, keeps an extensive wool depot at Buffalo, N. Y., which affords him peculiar advantages for information on this subject.

The quantity of wool going forward is so small that the eastern markets are not sensibly affected by the receipts. The main portion of the clip of 1849 has long since gone forward, and is held by a small number of dealers in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. The largest quantity is in New York. In Philadelphia there is considerable fine wool, principally from the western parts of Pennsylvania. Indeed, the bulk of the wool now in market is of the finer grades. Coarse and medium wools are nearly out of the market, and still the demand is far from being satisfied.

Manufacturers have been in the market during the month, and have bought, to a moderate extent, at rates a shade higher than those quoted for September. They are, however, but poorly supplied, and at best will find much difficulty in keeping their mills in motion till the next clip, even if disposed to do so. Many, however, will run with the least possible quantity that will keep their hands together. The high price of stock, and the low price of fabric, furnish no inducement for very rapid production. The prospect ahead for them is not as cheering as it ought to be to insure the farmer a fair price for his wool, especially the finer grades. A few companies are making money, but a large majority of the woollen manufacturers, if not losing, are not making a fair interest on their investment. A modification of the tariff, so as to charge specific duties instead of *ad valorem*, would furnish the only remedy; and that should be done. A little more competency in the proper department of our custom-house would furnish much more protection than they now get, and our revenue would be very materially benefited.

Pulled wool is now in demand, and the inquiry active at full rates. We have orders to purchase any quantity, at from 25 to 33 cents, according to quality and condition. Pelts are eagerly sought for, and find a ready sale at full rates. A contract has been made in Chatauque county, for 17,000, at 62½ cents all around.

A larger number of sheep will be slaughtered this autumn and winter than for many years past.

While upon the subject of pelts, we would remind our friends that we receive, store, and sell them upon commission, and should feel obliged for their favors.

Sales have been made during the past month at the depot, of No. 1, at 38 cents, and No. 2 at 36 cents. The lower numbers are worth from 27 to 31 cents.

HOVEN OR SWOLLEN CATTLE.

The *Giornale Agrario Toscano* communicates a remedy against the dangerous effects to which cattle are liable from too free feeding on clover, and some other vegetables of similar qualities. It consists in a solution of ammonia, to be given in a quantity of water sufficient to enable the animal to swallow it with ease. One glass is generally found effectual. Should it be found otherwise, a second is to be given at the expiration of half an hour. Ample testimony is adduced to show the value of the prescription.

For the New England Farmer.

AMOUNT OF PRODUCE FROM COWS.

An analysis of facts relating to the produce of butter on certain farms in the county of Essex, in the summer of 1849, taken from the statements of the occupants, as presented to the committee on the dairy, for the premiums offered by the Essex County Agricultural Society. The several claimants were required to state distinctly their produce for the month of June; also for the four months next following the 20th of May.

Names.	Residence.	Cows.	June Average to a Cow.	Four Months Average to a Cow.	Total in Four Months.
John Stone,	Marblehead,	4	45 lbs.	155 lbs.	620 lbs.
Daniel Putnam,	Danvers,	6	34 "	124 "	744 "
Elijah Pope,	Danvers,	4	28 "	111 "	444 "
Charles P. Preston,	Danvers,	7	30 "	112 "	784 "
George Pearson,	Saugus,	6	30 "	109 "	654 "
Nathaniel Felton,	Danvers,	8	32 "	110½ "	884 "
Jonathan Berry,	Middleton,	8	30 "	99 "	790 "
Duncan M'Naughton,	Byfield,	5	25 "	98 "	490 "
John Preston,	Danvers,	4	26 "	92 "	366 "
Nathan D. Hawks,	Lynnfield,	4	25 "	85 "	340 "
		56	308 lbs. ÷ by 10 = 30.8 " the average.	1095 lbs. ÷ by 10 = 109.5 " in 123 days.	6116 lbs. ÷ by 56 = $109\frac{3}{14}$ lbs. the average.

Most of the above facts are distinctly set forth in the statements. Those which are not, are estimated from those that are. They show what may be expected, from our well-managed dairies, in such seasons as the past, where the feed for the months of August and September was materially cut off by the drought. If you think them worthy a position in your record of New England farming, you have them, with my confidence in their accuracy.

Very truly yours,

DANVERS, *Oct.* 25, 1849. J. W. P.

For the New England Farmer.

FARMING WILL TRIUMPH.

When the year nineteen hundred shall have been borne on the rapid car of time, and proclaimed in our midst, what an advancement will have been made in the arts and sciences, and the various departments of agriculture, if new inventions and improvements continue to be put forth to the world as they have been for the last half century! Who of us can imagine the improvements that will be made in the cause of agriculture during the next fifty years? Judging from the past, when the year nineteen hundred shall have dawned upon us, the profession of agriculture will be as much coveted and sought after, as it was once considered low and disgraceful. Time was when farming was thought (especially by the young) to be a very unpopular and low business. How many a young man has forsaken a comfortable home and farm, and apprenticed himself to some village grocer, because, forsooth, farming was degrading! But a new era is dawning upon this western continent; people are beginning to open their eyes to their true interests, and to the interests of the whole country.

While great improvements have been made, and are still making, in the arts and sciences, the cause of Agriculture has not been left in the rear. With giant force she has *ploughed* her way through, and with eagle wings she is fast soaring towards the summit of her glory. There was a time when the farmer would grow crops on his New England soil so long as his land would yield him an equivalent for his labors, without the use of manure or compost, and then "pull up stakes," and turn his face with the emigrant towards the western wilderness. A different state of things is being brought about. The soil is cared for, and every waste material is turned to account. Thus the land is enriched and kept in a productive state, and rewarding the husbandman with an abundant harvest for his labors. Farming is not now confined to the mere ignorant classes of society, as men of talents and wealth have become engaged in it, thus showing to the world that to be a tiller of the soil is no mean occupation.

Since the existence of the numerous machinations of mankind to obtain money without a resort to manual labor, the honest yeoman, by pursuing his honorable occupation, in earning his bread by the sweat of his brow, has won for himself unfading laurels, and is receiving the attention and respect of all classes of the community. The time will come, and that too before the nineteenth century shall have been numbered with the past, when farming will become the leading occupation of the day, and those who are now leaving the plough for the city will be as eager to return to the plough, and enjoy the comforts of the farmer's life in the country, as they were anxious to leave it. These are the writer's humble predictions.

A. TODD.

SMITHFIELD, R. I.

For the New England Farmer.

STRAW HENS' NESTS.

MR. COLE. Dear Sir: Perhaps it is as important that we should have good nests for hens, as it is that we should have good hens. I have sent one to Ruggles, Nourse, Mason, & Co., which to me was a curiosity, and more than that, a great convenience; and as there has been much of interest published of late concerning fowls, it may not be wholly useless to say a word about what I call an Irish hens' nest. I think no one would be without them if their convenience was once tested. They will cost about

seventy-five cents each, and probably will last fifty years. They can be hung up by the side of the hen-house, or placed where you wish, and the hens will follow them, after they have become acquainted with them, which will be very soon. They can be easily kept clean by scalding and changing the hay that is put into them for their accommodation. When a hen wishes to set, turn the nest round, the door to the wall, until she is weaned from it a day or two, and then turn it back again, and it will soon be occupied as a most choice deposit for more eggs. I have used them for the past year, and find myself and my hens alike pleased with them. Do with this as you please.

Yours respectfully,

OTIS BRIGHAM.

Westborough, *Oct.* 23, 1849.

Editorial Remarks. — The straw nest is very curious, and ingeniously constructed, affording peculiar advantages, as hens seek for retirement when they are laying or sitting; and as it is adapted to suspension, the hen on her nest may be kept free from disturbance, or the attacks of various predatory animals. This nest should have a conspicuous place in the poultry exhibition.

For the New England Farmer.

MANURING NURSERIES, &c.

Friend Cole: Being in conversation with a nurseryman relative to the business, he informed me of a new method he had made trial of for manuring his grounds, and at the same time to obviate the necessity of hoeing, which had been a saving of some thirty dollars the present season. It was simply to cover the ground three or four inches thick with swamp hay, worth about five dollars per ton. This, he said, very nearly kept down all weeds; but if here and there one found its way through, it was an easy matter to destroy it, as the ground, of course, would be light under such treatment.

In most or all locations, it would be necessary to remove the litter in the fall, to prevent the depredations of the mice, and by returning the same partly-rotted hay or straw in the spring, would the second season have decomposed sufficiently to incorporate with the earth, by using the cultivator between the rows. If thou hast had any knowledge of this method of nursery culture, wilt thou be so kind as to publish thy views upon it in the New England Farmer, and oblige thy friend,

D. TABOR.

Vassalboro', 9*th Mo.*, 1849.

Editorial Remarks. — We have occasionally covered land among nursery trees, and around standard trees, to keep the soil light, and to guard against drought by retaining moisture; and this mode is attended with excellent success. In many cases, in hot, dry summers, it saves newly-transplanted trees from destruction; and it often produces a large crop of the finest fruit, where, otherwise, there would be a total failure from extreme heat and drought.

Mr. Tudor has raised, this season, at Nahant, — naturally a most unfavorable location, both from the light, sandy soil, and exposure to salt spray, — the largest pears of some varieties that we ever saw. A friend, who visited his fruit-garden in the heat of summer, remarks that his great success consists in *mulching*. A basin of earth is formed around the trees, into which is put a deep layer of oak leaves, which retains the moisture, on the same principle that it is retained around forest trees in their natural position. So this skilful operation of art produces the same effect as Nature herself, when left free from the improvident hand of the cultivator.

Hay, straw, sea-weed, common weeds, leaves, shavings, partially decomposed tan, charcoal-dust, manure of various kinds, and many other substances, are good for mulching; and as they decay they form a valuable manure. In many cases, these materials are worth for manure all that they cost; so that the expense of mulching, or covering the land, would cost nothing.

Raspberries and gooseberries succeed far better where the land is covered. We have seen a piece of raspberries, that was well covered with litter, perfectly free from weeds, without hoeing; and it yielded over a quart of fruit to the hill or stool, which was four feet apart, making about twenty quarts to the square rod, — one hundred bushels, or thirty-two hundred quarts, to the acre, — which at the usual price of twenty-five cents per quart, amounts to eight hundred dollars.

Covering land not only keeps the soil light and moist, but it keeps up an equilibrium of temperature, conducing to large and excellent crops, and the healthy condition of trees, which, in our climate, without this conservative measure, are liable to injury, diseases, and death, by the great extremes of heat and cold, wet and drought.

As to the economy of covering land, much depends on circumstances, of which every cultivator must judge for himself. Generally it is attended with much expense, and a very profitable crop must be obtained in order to justify so liberal an expenditure.

For the New England Farmer.

HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE, NO. II.

Mr. Editor: The aboriginal inhabitants of Greece lost all the primeval arts of agriculture, and lived in a most degraded manner, and fed upon wild fruits, acorns, &c.; but by their early communication with the Egyptians, they were led to the cultivation of the ground, and they probably borrowed their arts and early principles of science from them. Agriculture was held in high esteem in the time of Homer, so much so that one of the ancient kings laid aside the robes of royalty that he might cultivate his fields. Hesiod, who lived about the time of Homer, devoted a whole poem to the subject of agriculture.

Xenophon wrote a treatise on rural affairs some time after; but of other writings among the Greeks on the subject of agriculture, but little remains, except some scattered notices on the subject by several authors, till the time of Varro, who informs us that, in his time, there were not less than fifty authors that might be consulted on the subject of agriculture and rural affairs. The Phœnicians and Chaldeans held husbandry in the highest estimation. The Carthaginians, who descended from the Phœnicians, carried it to great perfection; they have several writers on the subject, among whom was Mago, one of their greatest generals. He is said to have written no less than twenty-eight books; and it is probable that, under these auspices, agriculture flourished in

Sicily, which afterwards became the granary of Rome.

Sacred history informs us that the Jews applied themselves to the cultivation of the soil, immediately after they came into the possession of the land of Canaan, each family having their territory allotted to them. By the frequent allusions to this subject in different parts of the Old Testament, we may safely infer that husbandry formed their principal occupation. Many of the laws of Moses have for their object the regulation of their flocks and herds, their pastures and fields. David cultivated his own fields, having storehouses for his corn and wine, with officers to oversee the same. Elisha was in the field, with twelve yoke of oxen, when Elijah found him. There are also frequent allusions to husbandry business in different parts of the sacred writings, such as the planting of vineyards, threshing, sifting, and winnowing corn; with many other allusions to farming business, all having the same import, going to show that husbandry was their leading occupation.

ROCKINGHAM.

LABOR WELL APPLIED IS PRODUCTIVE OF PROFIT.

Farmers should ever bear in mind that "well-directed labor" will insure its reward. Of all classes of men, there is none upon whom this truth needs to be enforced more than the farmer. How many of our farmers are year after year toiling on, overwhelmed with their business on an immense estate, and at the close of the year the accounts are about balanced, and again the same toil and vexation must be renewed! If rightly-directed effort had been put forth, no more land farmed than could be done to perfection, what a saving of labor, what an increase of profit, what a reward in every point of view, would be received! In travelling through the best farming districts of this country, we often find illustrations of this truth most striking.

I have in my eye a farm of medium size, which, a few years since, was any thing but neat and in order, and which gave sad indications that labor had not been "well applied." But a change has come over this scene. A new occupant takes possession, fixed in his principles — determined that he would carry out this great maxim, on which depends the prosperity and success of the farmer, that "What is worth doing, is worth doing well." Now, how soon the farm begins to assume a new appearance! The fences are repaired, the land is drained where needed, the buildings are neatly repaired and arranged; manures are obtained best suited to the soil, and crops which are adapted to this region; a new and improved stock of cattle, sheep, and swine are secured, and in short every thing characteristic of the good farmer appears year after year, under the direction of him who knows how to *apply labor*. Instead of having, at the end of the year, to resort to loans to make up the deficiencies, this same farm yields a return that gladdens the heart of the farmer. As years roll on, each succeeding one finds a larger balance in favor of well-directed labor; and now, in addition to the ordinary appendages of a farm, there is reared, out of the profits of this well-regulated concern, a neat and tasty cottage, in the midst of shrubbery the most tasty and luxuriant — all the work of him who started with the determination to do all things well. And this is not all: as the well-regulated expense book is balanced, a profit which would gladden even the hearts of some of our bankers on the capital invested, is found on hand, to be applied as may best conduce to the comfort and welfare of an interesting family. There is no complaint of means to educate the children. They are brought up practically to appreciate the maxim that "What is worth doing, is worth doing well," and their education prepares them to carry out in all the varied scenes of life this all-important but too little practised truth.

Let me then urge upon the farmers who read this paper — and I am glad to know they are many, and among the most intelligent in our land — to put in practice, if they have not already done so, this simple but effectual method of farm labor, which brings with it the most abundant reward, and without which they will in vain struggle on, never securing the end of their toil. Order is Heaven's first law, and let it be yours in every thing relating to your farm. Remember you belong to a noble profession, and one that is destined to exert a mighty influence on the destinies of a world. As one man, then, let the American farmers adopt as their motto, "*All things relating to my farm shall be well done*," — and no more should be undertaken than can be thus done, — and soon he will be found to occupy that exalted position that will cause his influence to be felt the world over. Surely it cannot be necessary to urge upon the enlightened, the intelligent, the hard-working American farmer, further considerations in support of a principle that must, on a moment's reflection, commend itself to every right-minded, reflecting man.

In the London Gardener's Chronicle I find the following anecdote which the celebrated Robert Bakewell used frequently to relate — he whose name is familiar to almost every one for his extraordinary success in breeding cattle and sheep, and to whom, probably, Great Britain, as well as this country, owes as much as to any one individual, for that system of breeding which has secured the choice breeds of animals which are now to be found. It is to our purpose, as it gives the history of an old farmer, and one of olden times too, who was renewed by adopting the principle laid down as the heading of our article — "Labor well applied is productive of profit."

Mr. Bakewell said, "A farmer who owned and occupied one thousand acres of land had three daughters. When his eldest daughter married, he gave her one quarter of his land for her portion, but no money; and he found, by a little more speed, and a little better management, the produce of his farm did not decrease. When his second daughter married, he gave her one third of the remaining land for her portion, but no money. He then set to work, and began to grub up his furze and fern, and ploughed up what he called his poor, dry, furze land, even where the furze covered, in some closes, nearly half the land. After giving half his land to two of his daughters, to his great surprise he found that the produce increased; he made more money, because his new broken up furze land brought excessive crops, and at the same time he farmed the whole of his land better, for he employed three times more laborers upon it; he rose two hours sooner in the morning; had no more dead fallows once in three years; instead of which he got two green crops in one year, and ate them upon the land. A garden never requires a dead fallow. But the great advantage was, that he had got the same money to manage five hundred acres as he had to manage one thousand acres; therefore, he laid out double the money upon the land.

"When his third and last daughter married, he gave her two hundred and fifty acres, or half that remained, for her portion, and no money. He then found that he had the same money to farm one quarter of the land as he had at first to farm the whole. He began to ask himself a few questions, and set his wits to work how he was to make as much of two hundred and fifty as he had done of one thousand acres. He then paid off his bailiff, (who weighed twenty stone,) rose with the larks in the long days, and went to bed with the lambs; he got as much more work

done for his money; he made his servants, laborers, and horses move faster; broke them from their snail's pace; and found that the eye of the master quickened the pace of the servant. He saw the beginning and ending of every thing; and to his servants and laborers, instead of saying, 'Go and do it,' he said to them, 'Let us go and do it, my boys.' Between *come* and *go* he soon found a great difference. He grubbed up the whole of his furze and his ferns, ploughed the whole of his poor grass land up, and converted a great deal of corn into meat for the sake of the manure, and preserved his black water, (the essence of manure;) cut his hedges down, which had not been plashed for forty or fifty years; straightened his zigzag fences; cut his watercourses straight, and gained a great deal of land by doing so; made drains and sluices, and irrigated all the lands he could; he grubbed up many of his hedges and borders covered with bushes, in some places from ten to fourteen yards in width, and threw three or more closes into one. He found out that instead of growing white-thorn hedges and haws to feed foreign birds in winter, he could grow food for man instead of birds.

"After all this improvement, he grew more and made of two hundred and fifty acres than he did from one thousand; at the same time he found out that half of England at that time was not cultivated, from the want of means to cultivate it with. I let him rams, and sold him long-horned bulls," said Mr. Bakewell, "and told him the real value of labor, both in doors and out, and what ought to be done with a certain number of men, oxen, and horses within a given time. I taught him to sow less and plough better; that there were limits and measures to all things; and that the husbandman ought to be stronger than the farmer. I told him how to make hot land colder and cold land hotter, light land stiffer and stiff land lighter. I soon caused him to shake off his old prejudices, and I grafted new ideas in their places. I told him not to breed inferior cattle, sheep, or horses, but the best of each kind, for the best consume no more than the worst. My friend became a new man in his old age, and died rich."

Is it not true that "labor well applied is productive of profit?" —*Genesee Farmer.*

THE SPIRIT OF IMPROVEMENT.

Never, probably, at any previous period, has there been manifested so universal a disposition and desire of improvement in the various branches of science, and in the different manufacturing and mechanical arts, as at present. Our colleges and seminaries of learning are emulously vying with each other in granting every facility in the education and instruction of the youth committed to their care. Our institutions for the promotion of practical science are exerting themselves to the utmost for the advancement of this valuable and important object. Men of intellect, and genius and skill, have embarked in these noble and praiseworthy undertakings, and from the success which they have already experienced, are encouraged to persevere and to redouble their exertions. Even our farmers and agriculturists have at last begun to feel the general impetus which has been given to the human mind, and think it necessary to do something in the way of improvement in the art of husbandry. Horticulture, in the last few years, has progressed with rapid strides, both to the astonishment and delight of those who have devoted to it their attention. And agriculture now is calling loudly for information and the testimony of facts, in order to found a profitable and approved system, for the proper cultivation of the earth. Legislatures are beginning to take this subject into consideration, and we look forward to the time, when among the hardy yeomen of the land we shall find as much intelligence, with regard to soil, manures, crops, implements, &c., relating to their particular pursuit, and the mode of treating and managing them to the best advantage, as we have already the evidence of proficiency in other departments, where man has already attained almost to perfection. That in the manner of cultivating there is great room for improvement, seems now to be universally conceded. And the success which has attended the efforts of some of our most enterprising farmers, of late years, is operating powerfully as an encouragement to similar and more extended endeavors with others. Nor does the influence seem to be limited to any particular class, or to any section of country. It appears to be widespread and universal, pervading the entire length and breadth of the land, though more sensibly felt where it is, of course, most needed, or other places that are most thickly settled, and most accessible to markets. The eastern section, our own state, the southern district, and even the far west, where land can be almost obtained for the asking, and where the best of land is to be found, there is instituted the same inquiry for practical knowledge, and manifested the same desire of improvement. So universal, in fact, is this spirit, that it must necessarily be productive of the most important and astonishing results. — *Farmer and Mechanic.*

THE CANADA GOOSE.

The Canadian or American wild goose, (*Anser Canadensis,*) and the Chinese goose, (*A. cygnoides,*) occupy, as a writer observes, "a sort of debatable ground," so that naturalists have been in doubt as to which family they should be referred; and hence some have applied to them the name of *swan geese.*

The Canadian goose is extensively known. It is a migratory bird, and in its semiannual journeys, traverses the northern part of the continent almost from the equator to the pole; and there are but few of the inhabitants of this country that are not familiar with its shrill and animating cry. Its autumnal flight lasts from the middle of August to the middle of October, and the vernal flight from the middle of April to the middle of May. Various stops are made, however, at convenient points, between the winter and summer localities.

It breeds in its wild state only at the north. Its favorite resort is the coast of Labrador, and the region about Hudson's Bay; though Hearne speaks of having seen great numbers within the Arctic circle, pushing their way still northward.

To the inhabitants of the regions where it breeds, the bird is regarded as an important source of subsistence. Its arrival in spring is anxiously looked for, and the Indians denominate the month the *goose moon.* It is said that the carcasses of these birds are dealt out as rations to the men employed by the Hudson's Bay Company. "One goose, which when fat weighs about nine pounds, is the daily ration to one of the company's servants during the season, and is reckoned equivalent to two snow geese, (*A. Hyperborea,*) or three ducks, or eight pounds of buffalo and moose meat, or two pounds of pemmican, or a pint of maize and four ounces of suet." [*Richardson.*] Those which are killed after the weather becomes cool in the fall, are frozen and kept in the feathers for a winter stock of provisions.

Richardson describes the habits of these geese in his *Fauna Boreali-Americana,* as follows: —

"About three weeks after their first appearance, the Canada geese disperse in pairs through the country, between the 50th and 67th parallels, to breed, retiring at the same time from the shores of Hudson's Bay. In July, after the young birds are hatched, the parents moult, and vast numbers are killed in the

rivers and lakes, when, from the loss of their quill-feathers, they are unable to fly. When chased by a canoe, and obliged to dive frequently, they soon become fatigued, and make for the shore with the intention of hiding themselves; but as they are not fleet, they fall an easy prey to their pursuers. In autumn they again assemble in flocks on the shores of Hudson's Bay, for three weeks or a month previous to their departure southwards."

The Canada goose has been domesticated, and is not an uncommon inhabitant of the poultry-yard, either in this country or in England. It does not breed till it is three years old. It is somewhat larger than the common goose, and its flesh is better; it has also more feathers and of better quality. It is very hardy, and rears its young with much certainty. It is believed to be quite as profitable as the common kind; and considering its beauty and usefulness, it would seem desirable that it should be multiplied in a domestic state.

The Canada goose will breed with the common, and also with the Chinese goose; but the hybrid offspring are, in all cases, incapable of procreation. Some poultrymen, however, make it an object to breed mongrels, as they are called. They grow rapidly, and acquire a larger size than either of their parents, and their flesh is of so fine a flavor, and so highly prized, that it readily commands a higher price in the market. The finest mongrels are produced between the wild and the Bremen, and the wild and the Chinese geese.

It is stated on the authority of Buffon, that the Canadian goose, kept in a domestic state in France, was found to interbreed familiarly with the swans. Have any attempts been made to cause this goose to breed with the American swan, and with what success?

It may be remarked that the wild goose (*A. Palustris*) of Europe is the parent of our common domestic goose, and, of course, a distinct species from the Canadian goose. — *Albany Cultivator.*

THE SEASON.

The season for gathering the fruits of the earth is about closed. Spring and summer, seed time and harvest, the opening flower and mature fruit have come and gone. The genial sun and attendant showers have refreshed and invigorated the earth, and in return, it has yielded its fruits with an unstinted and liberal hand; the five talents left in his possession have gained other five, and like a good banker, when called for, cheerfully restored them.

We congratulate the farmers of Berkshire in the success which has attended their labors and investments the past season. The task, though laborious, is healthful, and in many cases lucrative; and the consciousness of having derived our profits from a source which has made none the poorer, — from a mine which unworked would work ruin to the world; from a bank which unopened would yield no dividends, — affords a source of pleasure known only to him whose hand has aided in the work. Judging from observation and report, we are safe in saying that the products, (taken as a whole,) the past season, have exceeded those of any preceding year. There has been more than a medium yield of every crop except apples, (which has proved almost a blank.) Grass, though not so great a growth, by growing gradually as it did, occasioned by the dry weather, will be found to contain more nourishment than some of the profuse growths of former years; while potatoes and grain of all kinds have yielded an abundant return for the investment made, and are bringing prices which will abundantly repay the farmer for the money and labor expended.— *Berkshire Culturist.*

THE HORSE KNOWN BY HIS EARS.

The size, position, and motion of the ears of a horse are important points. Those rather small than large, placed not too far apart, erect and quick in motion, indicate both breeding and spirit; and if a horse is in the frequent habit of carrying one ear forward, and the other backward, and especially if he does so on a journey, he will generally possess both spirit and continuance. The stretching of the ears in contrary directions shows that he is attentive to every thing that is passing around him; and while he is doing this, he cannot be much fatigued, nor likely soon to become so.

It has been remarked that few horses sleep without pointing one ear forward and the other backward, in order that they may receive notice of the approach of objects in any direction. When horses or mules march in company, at night, those in front direct their ears forward; those in the rear direct them backward; and those in the middle of the train turn them laterally or crosswise — the whole seeming thus to be actuated by one feeling, which watches their general safety.

The ear of the horse is one of the most beautiful parts about him, and by few things is the temper more surely indicated than by its motion. The ear is more intelligible even than the eye, and a person accustomed to the horse, can tell, by the expressive motion of that organ, almost all that he thinks or means. When a horse lays his ears flat back on his neck, he most assuredly is meditating mischief, and the bystander should be aware of his heels or his teeth. In play, the ears will be laid back, but not so decidedly nor so long. A quick change in their position, and more particularly the expression of the eye at the time, will distinguish between playfulness and vice.

The hearing of the horse is remarkably acute. A thousand vibrations of the air, too slight to make any impression on the human ear, are readily perceived by him. It is well known to every hunting man, that the cry of hounds will be recognized by the horse, and his ears will be erect, and he will be all spirit and impatience, a considerable time before the rider is conscious of the least sound. — *The Horse and his Rider.*

ASHES AND LIME FOR PLUM-TREES.

Friend Reed: I have in my garden a plum-tree, which, for three or four years past, has borne very full; but not till this year has one of the plums been sound.

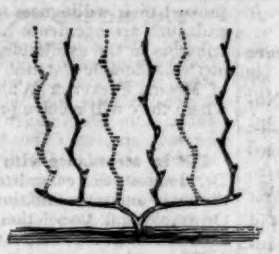
They all were bored, or rotted, and fell from the tree before they were ripe. Two or three other plum-trees, of a different kind, which have borne less, shared the same fate. Last year, a young tree, which stood near an ash-leach, and which had never borne before, produced a solitary plum, and that was sound. This suggested the idea, that its preservation was owing to the ashes which had been scattered around the roots of the tree. Following out the hint thus given, I last spring spread ashes and lime, with manure and salt, around all my trees. The result has been, that they all have borne, this year, more than usual, and most of the fruit has been sound. This result I ascribe, in part, to the ashes and lime. The same, I find, is recommended by "An Old Digger." And the conclusion is obvious, that alkali enough will destroy the young insects as they lie burrowed in the ground or attempt to emerge from it in the spring. If in this way sound plums can be raised, it will be found a very easy way. Let some of your readers try the experiment and note the result.

H. GOODWIN.

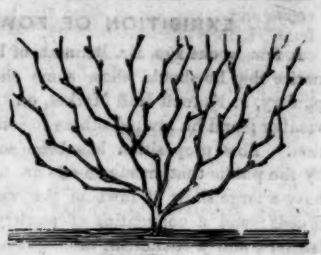
S. Canaan, Ct., *Oct.* 1849.

— *Berkshire Culturist.*

Spur Training.



Cane Training.



Fan Training.

PRUNING AND TRAINING GRAPE-VINES.

In this section of the country, grapes do not receive the attention that they deserve. One reason for this is, want of knowledge in their management. Most foreigners in this country follow the usual practice in Europe, and cut back the vines too much, leaving only a few eyes; and in the summer, they often cut back the growing shoot close to the fruit, which prevents full growth and maturity.

On the contrary, cultivators who have had but little experience in this business, neglect pruning, sometimes for years, until the vines become exhausted in the production of small, worthless fruit, and a superabundance of wood, forming a dense mass, without sufficient air, light, or heat to perfect fruit, or form strong, healthy, and productive vines.

In cultivating our native grapes, — and no others are adapted to out-door culture, — these extremes should be avoided. After the fall of the leaf, and before extremely cold weather, grape-vines should be thoroughly pruned. If many spurs are left on a vine, they should be pruned back; leaving two, three, or four joints of the present year's growth. The quantity of wood left should depend on the room and the strength of the vines. Where the spurs are close together, cut out every other one.

In fan training, and other modes where vines have a plenty of room, it is well to leave several feet of the last growth; and in cane pruning, vines are often left six, eight, or ten feet long, of the present season's growth. So much depends on various circumstances, which the operator will take into consideration, and exercise his judgment, that definite rules cannot be given.

Almost every cultivator, who has not much experience in this business, finds, in the summer, that he has far too much fruit and too many vines. So he goes to work, at that season, and mutilates the vines, and thins out the fruit; but the vines become checked by the close pruning at a wrong season, the wood ripens earlier than usual, and the fruit fails. The only way to guard against the evil is, to prune thoroughly late in fall, or early in winter. If it be done in spring, the vines are liable to bleed.

There is a difference in our native grapes as to the amount of pruning that is necessary. Some are moderate growers, and will bear good crops with but very little pruning; others grow very vigorously, and must be pruned closely, else there will be too much vine, and more fruit than will grow and ripen well.

There are various modes of training. The spur system is the most common. The spurs are cut back every fall, and a part of the spurs should be cut out every season, and new ones trained in their place.

In the cane system, the vines represented by the lines are those that have borne fruit this season; and they should be cut away this fall, and new ones trained in their places next season. The vines represented by the dotted lines, are new ones trained up this season, which will bear fruit next year, and will be cut away in the fall. In this way, by cutting out alternate vines every season, the fruit will be produced on new vines; and it always grows on young shoots from the last year's growth; therefore constant pruning is necessary in order to produce new wood for the production of fruit.

Fan training, upon trellises, is much practised. The vines may be kept short, or extended to a considerable distance, as the cultivator chooses. In the fan system, old vines may be cut out, occasionally, and new ones trained in their stead; or alternate vines may be cut out, as in cane training.

In most vineyards, where particular attention is paid to raising as large crops as possible, the vines are set in rows about six feet apart, and about four feet apart in the rows, and trained to a single stake: we find this the most economical and convenient way.

Grape-vines may be conducted along by walls or fences, or under ground a considerable distance from the root, and then trained on the walls or roofs of buildings. They may be spread out in fan shape, or the cane or spur system may be adopted.

There are various modifications of the systems we have named, and in some cases they are blended. The great object should be to prune so thoroughly late in fall, that there will not be too much vine without pruning the next summer, otherwise than thinning out feeble branches that have no fruit on them, or merely pinching off the new tips of the vigorous branches, to check the growth of the wood, and throw the nourishment which the vines contain into the fruit, to perfect its growth and maturity.

November is a good season for pruning the grape. Early in December will answer very well. But if vines are pruned in winter, and it is generally very cold till spring, so that the ends of the wood cannot season, they will be liable to bleed, as warm weather comes on, the same as vines pruned in spring.

EXHIBITION OF FOWLS.

A few weeks ago, Dr. Bennett, of Plymouth, gave notice that he should show some choice breeds of poultry, at Faneuil Hall Market, on the 15th of November; and he invited others to join in the exhibition. This proposition has been so well received by the public that arrangements are now making to have a large show of fowls of the various excellent breeds; and a convention of poultry breeders and fanciers, and a committee distinguished for their intelligence and attention to the subject, have been appointed, who will sit in judgment upon the exhibition.

We hope that all who have fine fowls will contribute to this exhibition; for it is a subject of deep importance to the public, as poultry and eggs constitute no small part of our substantial food, as well as luxuries, forming numerous excellent dishes, and contributing essentially to the improvement of many others. Statistical accounts of the vast amount, both in quantity and value, of poultry and eggs consumed in some sections, or by some nations, would astonish almost every person, not excepting even the greatest consumers, compared with which, many things, that are regarded as highly important, would dwindle into insignificance.

Come on, then, all who have fine fowls, and aid in this convention, to give due importance to a business that has been too much neglected, and which should rank among the most interesting and valuable in rural affairs. Those who attend as spectators, will, we trust, witness the finest and most extensive display of fowls that they ever beheld. We publish the following from the committee: —

PLYMOUTH, MASS., *Oct.* 25, 1849.

To Colonel Samuel Jaques, Dr. Eben Wight, John Giles, Esq., Mr. Timothy House, and Mr. H. L. Devereux.

GENTLEMEN: You are aware that I have taken incipient measures to get up and organize a convention of breeders and fanciers of domestic fowls, to be called the "*New England Ornithological Association*," which, at the suggestion of Mr. Pedder, will, in all probability, establish an annual exhibition for laudable competition in that department; and that I have solicited the coöperation of all interested in the improvement and perfection of such stock. In order to give it respectability, and popular favorable consideration, it will be necessary to have order and fitness in the organization and assemblage. Therefore, suffer me to respectfully request you to act as a "*Committee of Supervision*," with plenary powers, until discharged or confirmed by the convention. All of which is respectfully submitted by

Yours, respectfully,
J. C. BENNETT.

N. B. In consequence of the exhibition being so late in the season, November 15th, and fearing inclement weather, Messrs. Parker & White have kindly proffered the use of two large eighty feet rooms, (adjacent,) in their agricultural warehouse, No. 10, Gerrish Block, Blackstone Street, Boston, which I have accepted, (on the advice of several ornithologists, who take a lively interest in the convention,) instead of Quincy Market, as at first proposed; which I trust will prove satisfactory to all concerned.

In the replies of the gentlemen to whom the above communication was addressed, they have kindly expressed their willingness to serve on the committee; and such arrangements have been made that contributors in the exhibition, who send their stock from any considerable distance, may direct it to the store of Messrs. Parker & White, on the days previous, where they will receive proper care and attention.

J. C. B.

☞ In accordance with the above suggestion of Dr. Bennett, the committee would give notice that the first annual exhibition of the "New England Ornithological Association" will take place on the 15th of November inst., at the store of Messrs. Parker & White, No. 10 Gerrish Block, Blackstone Street, Boston, commencing at nine o'clock A. M., to continue through the day.

All those who take an interest in improving the breed of domestic fowls, or who have specimens of choice stock, — imported or otherwise, — are respectfully invited to be present on the above occasion, and to forward their stock in season for exhibition on that day. The committee suggest that contributors of fowls shall send them in compact coops, each labelled with the name of the breeder, class of stock, and age, upon a card attached to each box.

SAMUEL JAQUES,
EBEN WRIGHT,
JOHN GILES,
TIMOTHY HOUSE,
H. L. DEVEREUX,
} *Committee, &c.*

BOSTON, *Oct.* 29, 1849.

THE BLACKBERRY.

This fruit, when grown in perfection, either wild or in gardens, ranks among the very finest produced in this or any other country. On new lands, it grows wild, and in the finest condition. In this region, it is cultivated to a small extent, and the fruit, which is of the highest character, sells at great prices — sometimes at one dollar per quart. But this enormous price is owing to its great scarcity; yet it will have a good effect in causing the extension of its culture, until it will become as common in gardens as strawberries, raspberries, and other small fruits. We copy the following from the Water Cure Journal, as we agree with the author in the importance and healthful influence of this luscious fruit, and the great pleasure in rambling among the hedges to collect it.

This exceedingly useful and wholesome fruit is too much neglected. A surprising prejudice prevents families from making use of it for domestic purposes. But we have grown older and wiser, and have learned by experience that the blackberry can only be despised by those who have no taste for the simple, yet delightful, and withal luscious banquet which Nature, in autumn, so amply spreads around. To us there is an indescribable charm in leaving the dusty highway, where the berries are coated in drab, to wander by the hedgerow, whose resplendent bunches hang in rich profusion, inviting the taste by the beauty of the appearance.

We like to renew the joyous feelings of youth, and to allow youngsters to participate in the glorious treat of a day's blackberrying, whenever the opportunity occurs. Year by year, we were wont to wander, with a party of schoolboys, to some favorite spot, where the berries grew luxuriantly on an ancient hedge, long undisturbed by the hedger's bill. Here, with hooked stick, we pulled down the jetty bunches, and filled our baskets with winter store; for our enjoyment did not cease with the day, but before our

mental vision was the prospect of sweets to be enjoyed in the tarts and puddings of future days.

Then, appetite quickened by the fresh air and long walk, came our picnic dinner on the soft grass under the sunny hedge: here, with wholesome refreshment, happy faces, and beautiful scenery before us, we really got much pleasure, as well as profit, from our blackberry excursion. Then followed our ample dessert of the wild berry; and we, as well as our baskets, being filled to our hearts' content, were reminded by the setting sun that it was time to hasten homeward with our gathered treasure.

Will any one who reads this follow our example? Let him lay aside his worldly anxieties, his business cares, his daily occupations, and just try how much simple enjoyment he may procure for himself, how much real gratification he may afford to others, by a day's blackberrying.

But this is scarcely practical enough for our pages: we must now adopt a more humble style.

The blackberry is found growing plentifully in almost every situation: on the high chalk hills or the clayey valley, there it is in profusion.

But when fully exposed to the sun, the flavor of the fruit is much more perfect and of greater sweetness than when growing in shady aspects. It is too common to need description; every body knows it; and perhaps its very commonness makes it neglected.

We have never seen blackberries brought to market except in London; and yet there is no reason why children should not employ their time in gathering them for sale: the money they would fetch would be a little help; and no means, however small, should be neglected by any one, now-a-days, by which the comforts of his family may be increased.

Then, if they are not sold, blackberry puddings may be made for the children; and these, either with or without the addition of a few apples or damsons, are very capital things for a family. They should be made precisely in the same way as gooseberry or currant puddings are usually made.

ADVANTAGES OF RAILROADS.

Hon. E. Everett, in his speech at the Norfolk Cattle Show, made the following remarks on the advantages of railroads to agriculture: —

We were accustomed to view this system as much more intimately connected with our commerce and manufactures than with our agricultural interest. But he believed that it would soon do quite as much for the farmers as for any class, and that, in respect to agriculture, and the real benefit of the country, our net-work of iron roads would be worth more than ten Californias. Another idea struck him in relation to the extension of these railroad facilities. It had long been the complaint that young men in the country were abandoning the places of their birth, and looking into the great cities in search of a livelihood to be gained, if at all, through different means than those to which they had been brought up. This complaint, he must allow, had been but too well founded. But now it was getting to be much more common than it formerly was for a man, so soon as he had acquired a competency, to return to the place of his birth, and build himself a snug little nest in the shade of his ancestral trees. For instance, within a circle of twenty-five miles around Boston, a perfect crop of these little boxes had sprung up, and it was daily increasing in amount. Let but a system of enlightened and judicious agriculture go hand in hand with these increasing facilities of communication with the great marts of trade, and the beneficial effect of a love and relish for pure country enjoyments and employments would be more and more developed.

EXPERIMENTS—POTATO RAISING.

The following experiments are with potatoes of the Mercer variety, on loamy soil, with subsoil of clay, and were planted the last week in April. I ploughed and subsoiled about twenty inches deep; planted the same number in each row. The experiments were conducted with perfect fairness: my object was to ascertain which was the best manure, so as to use it in future. The first three rows I manured broadcast with four hundred pounds Peruvian guano and two bushels plaster per acre, and harrowed it in. I likewise put a tablespoonful of the following manures on each potato: —

Row No. 1, compost of guano, ¼ guano, ¾ sand; yield, ... 1½ bushels.
Row No. 2, plaster; yield, ... 1½ "
" " 3, poudrette; yield, ... 1 "

The next four rows, twelve bushels salt per acre, broadcast: —

Row No. 1, live ashes, handful; yield, . 1½ bushels.
" " 2, ground bones, " " . ½ "
" " 3, bone dust, tablespoonful, . ½ "
" " 4, compost guano, as above, . ½ "

The next five rows, fifteen bushels bone dust per acre: —

Row No. 1, live ashes and plaster, handful, yield, ... 1½ bushels.
Row No. 2, salt and plaster, sprinkled along row, ... 1½ bushels.
Row No. 3, leached ashes and plaster, handful, ... 1½ bushels.
Row No. 4, bone dust, tablespoonful, . 1 bushel.
" " 5, guano, compost, and plaster, tablespoonful, ... 1½ bushels.

The next seven rows, twenty-five wagon loads stable manure per acre, broadcast: —

Row No. 1, plaster, tablespoonful; yield, 3 bushels.
" " 2, pure guano, tablespoonful, by side of potatoes, ... 2½ bushels.
Row No. 3, road dirt, ½ shovelful on each, 3½ "
" " 4, horse manure, " " 3 "
" " 5, hogpen " " 3 "
" " 6, poudrette, handful, . . . 2½ "
" " 7, guano compost, ... 2 "

The next experiments were with the Fox-Eye variety, planted 23d May. The manure was put in the row, nothing having been previously put on the ground.

Rows No. 1, 2, 3, and 4, leached ashes, a handful; yield, 10 bushels or 2½ bushels per row. Row No. 5, ground bones, small handful; yield, 1½ bushels. Row No. 6, salt sprinkled along row; yield, 1 bushel. No. 7, plaster, tablespoonful; yield, 1½ bushels. No. 8, pure guano, tablespoonful side of each potato; yield, 1 bushel. No. 9 and 10, lime ashes and plaster, handful; yield, 2 bushels each. No. 11, 12, 13, and 14, guano and plaster, spread along row, handful about every three yards; yield, 5 bushels, or 1¼ bushels per row.

In conclusion, I would state that the potatoes where the leached ashes were put were larger and better than either of the others, except the road dirt, which were decidedly finer than any in the field.

PENNINGTON, 1849. W. J.

P. S. The guano potatoes came up some ten days before the others, and looked greener and better for some time, but were finally beat by most of the others. W. J.

— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*

The parent who would train up a child in the way he should go, must go in the way that he would train up the child.

Domestic Department.

A Gem. — The sunlight that follows a shipwreck is not less beautiful, though it shines upon the remnants of a broken bark; what is saved is so much more precious than that which has been lost. The domestic circle is always too small to allow of rupture; it is always too precious to make excusable any neglect to prevent or heal disturbance. There are enough to minister by hints and reproaches to domestic unkindness; and unfortunately the best, under such circumstances, are much too prone to mistake, and thus misrepresent motives; and trifles, with no direct object, are magnified into mountains of unintentional offences. It is the same in social life. Let us guard against it. Delicate relations are like the polish of costly cutlery; dampness corrodes, and the rust, though immediately removed, leaves a spot. — *Michigan Farmer.*

To sweeten Bread without Sugar. — It is not generally known that pure starch, added to the flour and made into dough, will be partially converted into a species of sugar during the process of fermentation and baking, and produces sweet, wholesome bread. From the experiments of Dr. Colquhoun, it appears that starch, arrow-root, farina of potatoes, or similar amylaceous substances made into a jelly, with hot water, may be employed for this purpose with advantage. It is only necessary to mix the flour up with the jelly, instead of mere water, to add yeast and salt, and to bake in the common way. Dr. Percival has recommended the addition of salep for this purpose. One ounce of salep dissolved in one quart of water, two pounds of flour, eighty grains of salt, and two ounces of yeast, give three pounds two ounces of good bread; but the same weight of materials, without the salep, gave only two and three quarters pounds. If too much salep be added, however, it will give its flavor to the bread.

Indian Flap Jacks. — Scald a quart of Indian meal; when lukewarm, turn, stir in half a pint of flour, half a teacup of yeast, and a little salt. When light, fry them in just fat enough to prevent their sticking to the frying-pan. — Another method of making them very nice is, to turn boiling milk and water on the Indian meal, in the proportion of a quart of the former to a pint of the latter; stir in three table spoonfuls of flour, three eggs well beaten, and a couple of teaspoonfuls of salt.

Boys' Department.

What it is to be polite. — Politeness is a trait which every one admires, and which confers upon its possessor a charm that does much to pave the way of life with success. But it is very much misunderstood. Politeness does not consist in wearing a silk glove, and in gracefully lifting your hat when you meet an acquaintance: it does not consist in artificial smiles and flattering speech, but in sincere and honest desires to promote the happiness of those around you; in the readiness to sacrifice your own ease and comfort to add to the enjoyment of others. The man who lays aside all selfishness in regard to the happiness of others, who is ever ready to confer favors, who speaks in the language of kindness and conciliation, and who studies to manifest those little attentions which gratify the heart, is a polite man, though he may wear a homespun coat, and make a very ungraceful bow. And many a fashionable, who dresses genteelly, and enters the most crowded apartments with assurance and ease, is a perfect compound of rudeness and civility. He who has a heart flowing with kindness and good will towards his fellow-men, and who is guided in the exercise of these feelings by good common sense, is the truly polite man — and he alone. — *Michigan Farmer.*

Health.

Vaccination oftentimes no Vaccination. — Since the facilities of intercommunication with Europe by steamships have been established, and with different parts of our own country by railroads, we have noticed that cases of small-pox and varioloid are much more frequent. This arises from the carelessness of emigrants, and of others, in not guarding against attacks of small-pox by being vaccinated. But vaccination of the present day is not in all cases what it should be. It does not always protect the person vaccinated. And why does it not? Because impure matter is used for the purpose. Sometimes the matter is taken from the arm of a person who has been revaccinated — sometimes the matter is taken at an improper stage of the pustule, and not unfrequently from a person who has some other cutaneous disease.

Now, in all such cases, the matter so used, if it "takes," as the saying is, will make a sore, and apparently go through all the stages, leave a scar, and all that, and yet be of little or no efficacy in warding off the small-pox. We have known people become diseased with cutaneous diseases, which were undoubtedly brought on by the use of virus taken from a person similarly diseased. Too much care cannot be taken in this business. Be sure that the matter to be used is genuine, and collected at the proper stage of its maturity. If the patient to be inoculated be laboring under any cutaneous disease, or *humor*, as it is often called, he had better be cured of that first, for we have no doubt that such humor will vitiate the vaccine virus, and render it doubtful, to say the least, whether it will afford any protection to the person who is vaccinated at the time such humor is in full operation. — *Maine Farmer.*

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

Cheap and Valuable Paint. — *Editors Cultivator:* The Ohio mineral paint has been offered to the public as something very valuable, particularly to the farmer, for its durability and cheapness. I send you below the detail of some experiments which I caused to be made a year or more since, for cheap paint. I believe it equal to the Ohio article in all particulars, and superior from its greater cheapness, it being within the reach of almost every one.

Experiment No. 1 was the mixing of water-cement with oil to the consistency of paint, and putting it on immediately. Any drying article, used with oil paint, may be put in, if it be desirable to have it dry at once.

No. 2. *Cement* mixed with *coal tar*, or *gas tar*, as it is sometimes called, I put in, in the same manner, without any drying mixture. You can vary the color by the addition of any mineral substance. The paint I have put on, is now as hard as stone, and was put upon rough boards that had been exposed to the weather for ten years. I have just had painted a small building of rough boards, battened sides and

roof. The roof is covered with No. 2, the sides with No. 1. The color of both is stone — No. 1 nearly that of freestone, with a shade of handsome drab, and gradually becomes a little lighter. No. 2 is considerably darker; but this too becomes lighter by exposure to the air. I intend giving to the body of the building another coat, when sharp, clean sand will be thrown against it; and I doubt not, but I shall obtain a rich imitation of freestone.

The water cement used was from Southington, Connecticut, known as *Moore's Cement.*

It is not, like the Ohio paint, patented.

CHARLES R. ALSOP.

Middletown, Ct., *April* 27, 1849.

— *Albany Cultivator.*

Incombustible Preparation for Wood. — The following recipe for rendering wood incombustible, has been, we believe, tested in regard to its efficacy, and although personally we have not seen it proved, think we can recommend it as being of much utility, particularly when applied to the surface of wooden roofs, or other places particularly exposed to the action of fire.

It is very simple in its preparation, which requires the operator merely to take a quantity of water proportionate to the surface of the wood he may wish to cover, and add to it as much potash as can be dissolved therein. When the water will dissolve no more potash, stir into the solution, first, a quantity of flour paste, of the consistency of common painter's size; second, a sufficiency of pure clay, to render it of the consistency of cream.

When the clay is well mixed, apply the preparation, as before directed, to the wood; it will secure it from the action of both fire and rain. In a most violent fire, wood thus saturated may be carbonated, but it will never blaze.

If desirable, a most agreeable color can be given to the preparation, by adding a small quantity of red or yellow ochre.

FENCES.

The following article, from the Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper, contains judicious remarks; but we do not agree with the writer in his conclusion, that the hawthorn makes the best fence. As a matter of utility, or having a fence merely as a protection against animals, it is doubtful whether any hedge could be recommended, as it costs much to raise them and keep them in good condition and handsome appearance; and a flourishing hedge extracts a great deal of nutriment from the soil, which, under different management, might be turned to good account in crops. Yet, as an ornament and defence, a hedge combines these advantages above any other fence. But the hawthorn does not generally flourish well in this climate, as it is destroyed or stinted by our hot, dry summers.

The residence of a farmer cannot be complete unless it is surrounded by fences both convenient and pleasing to the eye. Let his grounds be ever so well cultivated, or his buildings ever so tastefully arranged, without neat fences the whole scene becomes a glaring caricature, more ridiculous from the contrast between order on the one hand and a disregard of taste on the other.

Who would think of building a fine mansion, and of enclosing it with a slender apology for a fence, so constructed as to prevent the entrance of cattle, not by its strength, but by frightening them, as if it were not to be approached without danger? And yet, how many farm-houses are enclosed by a zigzag thing overgrown by weeds! To complete this interesting picture, we find on one side of a pair of bars a large pig trough, and on the other a few boards placed, one end on the ground, the other on the fence, to provide a dozen half-starved road-pastured swine with a sleeping apartment. So much for the mere appearance of things in front. Let us now take a walk to the back part of the farm, and see how poor fences answer the purpose there.

In one corner of a field of grain, or of a meadow, an unruly horse is quietly grazing; in another, a yoke of oxen are regaling themselves with becoming gravity; in a third, a few pigs are at the business with a will; and to make all square, a flock of sheep occupy the fourth corner. No farmer can possibly flourish under such auspices, for if his land produces grain, "like sand on the sea-shore," his cattle will break in and destroy it; but no one will dispute the utility of good fences, to constitute which several things are necessary: —

First. A fence must be sufficiently high, otherwise it offers a temptation to spry, young cattle, or to old transgressors, to step over and take a toothful of forbidden fruit.

Second. It must be of sufficient strength, for some beasts are "wont to push with the horn," and a board over the face is no ornament to a good-looking animal.

Third. It must possess durability, for repairing old and rotten fences is no pleasant task.

Fourth. It must not be too expensive, for Yankee farmers dearly prize "the dollars."

Lastly. As a *sine qua non*, beauty must be combined with the above requisites.

The question then arises, What kind of fence has all these good qualities? And it may be answered, the hawthorn, or hedge fence, so common in England. This possesses "the useful with the agreeable," and harmonizes finely with a country scenery.

TRANSPLANTING TREES.

We find, in the Utica Gazette, facts showing that it is not necessary to select small trees for transplanting, in order to insure their growth. Large trees may be as successfully planted as small ones. The mode and result of an experiment, made by Messrs. Pomeroy and Dutton, of Utica, are thus given: —

Those gentlemen transplanted trees, comprising maples, elms, beech, &c., some thirty feet in height, which were transplanted without being shorn of any of their branches. The process of removal was as follows: In the fall, before the frost, a trench was dug around the trees selected, from ten to fifteen feet in diameter, and the roots severed. In the winter, when the ground had become solid from freezing, the trees pulled out by the aid of oxen and levers, with the mass of earth firmly attached to the roots. They were then transported erect on a strong sled, built for the purpose, and set out.

The trees grew in open land a mile and a half from the city. They put on their foliage last spring, as if wholly unconscious that they were not still in their native soil; and the enterprising gentlemen who undertook this unusual course are rewarded with shade trees, which by the old practice would have required twenty years to produce.

To remove Stumps. — If they are dry, set them on fire; if not, chain an upright lever, from eight to twelve feet in length, to them, and hitch a yoke of cattle to the upper end of the lever. If the lever is a good one, and firmly chained, the stump will be keeled over very easily. Stumps decay soonest if cut high, as they then hold most water.

SULLIVAN, N. H., CATTLE SHOW.

An agricultural society was organized in Sullivan county, N. H., last year, and the following account of their first show, recently held at Claremont, is very encouraging. We copy from the Newport Argus: —

From what we can learn, it was not expected that the gathering would be large, or that the productions of agriculture, and other articles brought to the fair for exhibition, would be numerous. But in this respect, the society and all were most happily disappointed. The assemblage from all parts of the county was exceedingly large, surpassing any gathering, to our knowledge, ever held in the county. A deep interest was manifested in the cause of agriculture.

The number of cattle brought to the fair was large. In this respect, the people of Croydon took the lead. They had attached to one team seventy-eight yoke of cattle, and a band of music, which excited much attention. Our Croydon neighbors are most clearly entitled to premium No. 1, on long teams. Among the big oxen, we noticed one yoke owned by Colonel E. J. Glidden, of Unity, which weighed about four thousand pounds. There were many other large cattle on the ground, a number of which were from Langdon: their precise weight we did not learn. There was also a good representation of steers, cows, and calves, some of which were very handsome.

The vegetable department, in which there was a good display, consisted of various kinds of potatoes, pumpkins, squashes, cabbages, turnips, apples, pears, &c., &c. We noticed some pumpkins, raised by H. P. Henderson, and I. Hubbard, Esq., of Claremont, which weighed eighty pounds. We also noticed squashes raised by Hon. S. Edgerton, of Langdon, which weighed seventy-six pounds, and some raised by Granville Gilmore, Esq., of Acworth, four and a half feet long.

The various kinds of needle-work by the ladies displayed much taste and ingenuity, and was said to be nicely executed.

The address was delivered by Mr. Brewster, of Hanover. Many parts of it were highly interesting. He spoke of agriculture as being the great leading interest in the country — the interest upon which all others rest, and which feeds and clothes the world.

FEEDING POULTRY.

Professor Gregory, of Aberdeen, Scotland, in an epistle to one of his friends, remarks on this subject as follows: —

"As I suppose you keep poultry, I may tell you that it has been ascertained that if you mix with their food a sufficient quantity of egg-shells, or common chalk, which they will eat greedily, they will lay twice or thrice as many eggs as before. A well-fed fowl is disposed to lay a vast number of eggs, but cannot do so without the materials for the shells, however nourishing, in other respects, may be her food. Indeed, a fowl fed on food and water, free from carbonate of lime, and not finding any in the soil, or in the shape of mortar, which they often eat off the walls, would lay no eggs at all with the best will in the world."

I have this season kept twenty-three hens and a cock, feeding them mostly on grain, green vegetables, sour milk, and meat; but as the year is not yet completed, during which my experiments with them are to extend, I forbear entering into a detailed statement of the profit at present, as it cannot be fully ascertained or even approximated. I have found that by giving them meat regularly every day, — the offal from the shambles, or, when this cannot be obtained, fresh fish, an abundance of which can be supplied from ponds and streams, — they will lay continuously, if provided with ashes, lime, egg-shells, or sand, to supply material for the shells. Brick-dust is an excellent substitute for the above; but it is more expensive, and will rarely be resorted to where lime can be obtained. In August, I commence setting my hens, allowing thirteen eggs — which are as many as can be well covered or incubated by one fowl — to each hen. Care is had to secure a good nest, where the sitting process will be performed comfortably and without interruption. Some commence setting their fowls in July; and when the poultry is wanted for early use or marketing, this is no doubt a better month than August; but I prefer the profit on the eggs during the preceding months, as I have never failed to have enough poultry for my own use, and a considerable quantity for marketing, when no chickens have been hatched till the last week in August, or the first or even the middle of the month following.

As soon as the broods are hatched, the hen is removed to a coop, conveniently situated for feeding, and carefully attended for three weeks, when she is permitted to range the fields with her brood — a shelter being prepared for them at night, to which they ordinarily resort voluntarily, and without any trouble or extra inducement being offered after the first night or two. In setting my hens, I am guided by the suggestions of Columella, who wrote nearly three thousand years ago, and who appears better to have comprehended the legitimate laws of poultry-raising than most of our modern authors who pretend to great skill and accuracy in the art. He remarks that all the long-shaped eggs, having concentric circles developed on the smaller ends, invariably produce male birds, and those which have not, females. This I have found to be strictly true. When I intend to produce fowls for market or for home consumption, I select the long eggs, as males are heavier and more hardy than females; but if my object is brood fowls, the shorter and smoother eggs are taken. On this subject I will write you again.

AGRICOLA.

Lower Dublin, *October* 15, 1849.

— *Germantown Telegraph.*

WOOL MARKET AT THE SOUTH.

With a view of keeping our readers apprised of the general progress of the wool business in this country, we present the following article. We have occasionally referred to the extension of wool-raising in the west, and on the highlands in the south, inferring from the great interest every where manifested in this subject, and the cheapness of lands west and south, and the facilities of communication, that the greatest competition in the wool market will be in our own country; and yet this should not at present discourage the wool-grower of the north, as manufactories are increasing as fast as the increase of the wool-growing business. A vast amount will be wanted to supply the millions of spindles that will soon be in operation. We copy from the American Farmer, published in Baltimore.

The Wool-Growers' Convention, lately held at Washington, Pa., I hope will have a tendency to draw the attention of the wool-growers of the adjoining states of Maryland, Ohio, and Virginia, to that all-important staple, and induce them to fall upon some plan, by which the northern and eastern manufacturer may know where he can find the precise qualities of wool suited to his peculiar manu-

facture, the want of which has caused the manufacturer to work to great disadvantage, as he is under the present system compelled to buy his wool, in many instances, with fleeces ranging from the coarsest Leicester to fleeces almost equal to best Saxony, which would assort into some twelve or fourteen distinct numbers or qualities, when he would probably not require for his own use more than one or two of any of those numbers; and the consequence is, that he is liable to a loss upon all the others, or he must manufacture from those fabrics, for which his machinery is not adapted, and suffer a further loss. Now, the only plan by which this vexatious state of things can be obviated is by the establishment of a wool-grading and assorting house, where they could have their wool put into its various numbers or qualities, where it can be presented to the purchaser, with an assurance that he will get what he buys, and nothing else: this assorting would probably cost the grower from two to two and a half cents, for assorting and cleansing from burs, &c., and he will find that it will enhance the value of his article to much greater extent than the extra charge of the wool-house. Having been a manufacturer for many years, I can fully appreciate some such system; having often been put to the inconvenience of working up small parcels, where larger ones would have been much more profitable; and all from the fact of having to buy all qualities mixed through each other. The plan, as now pursued by the wool-grower, is to bundle all his fleeces "pell mell" into a sack, and send them off to his merchant in the city to sell for him, who, though, perhaps, a good judge of cloths, knows nothing under heaven about the quality of wool in the fleeces, and probably, in the usual course of his business, never saw a fleece opened, and, if he did, could not tell upon what part the finest wool was to be found, and therefore liable to be imposed upon by the designing, though he is not the sufferer, so far as his commission is concerned. It requires a great deal of judgment and long experience to know how to handle wool. I know of no place so well suited for such an establishment as Baltimore, from her central situation, as well as being in the great thoroughfare from the Western to the Eastern States, which, for a long time to come, will consume all that can be produced of the fine qualities of wool. Immense quantities pass from this city annually to the east, and the greater part in small parcels, as received from individual growers, and all from the want of a wool-grading house in the city.

MANUFACTURER.

SASSAFRAS SWEET APPLE.

We copy the following article from the Albany Cultivator, under the head of "Haskell Sweet Apple."

In the last number of The Cultivator, under the horticultural department, I see, in answer to inquiries respecting the best sweet apples, you name the Haskell Sweet, for the fall.

I should be pleased to know from you, if this is the same apple described by Cole, in his recent Fruit Book. If it is, it will present the singular fact of an apple of high merit disseminated at a distance, and yet here in Essex county hardly known at all beyond the town (Ipswich) where it originated. It would also confirm my own opinion of its superior qualities.

I know not why Mr. Cole calls this the Sassafras apple. The original stock is now standing on a farm once owned by a Deacon Haskell, whence its name.

ALLEN W. DODGE.

Hamilton, Mass., *August* 24, 1849.

[This is the same as Cole's Sassafras apple. It has been cultivated by Robert Manning, of Salem, who thinks it the best autumn sweet apple. It has also proved fine at Macedon, in Western New York. Ed.]

In the American Fruit Book, we say of this apple that, *in our opinion*, the same fruit is considerably known under each name. We do not state this as a fact, as we have not seen and compared them together, but have tried them at different periods, and depend on memory, as well as judgment, for their identity.

Mr. Dodge will perceive that we have given a reason for preferring the name *Sassafras*, as it is significant. This apple has a distinct sassafras flavor. Another reason we might have given, is, that it is more extensively cultivated under the name of Sassafras.

CULTIVATION OF THE CRANBERRY.

Having read some reports on the cultivation of the Cranberry, from practical men, I was induced to make a trial of it last spring myself. I took some cranberry sods direct from the swamp, just like taking them from the water, and set them in hills some four or five feet apart, on a swamp muck soil, which had been drained dry enough to grow good potatoes. I set some fifteen or twenty rods of ground, on several different times, or dates. The first I set was in the second or third week in April, and the last in the last week in May. They have some scattering cranberries on them now, and have grown and spread over the ground far beyond what I anticipated; and if they grow as fast as they have done thus far, for a year to come, I think they will spread over the whole ground between the hills, for some of them have grown from three to three and a half feet in length already.

B. MEACHAM.

Claremont, N. H.

— *Selected.*

GRAPE-VINES.

The cultivators of grapes have frequently complained that their vines do not bear fruit annually. A distinguished agriculturist has adopted the following method to remedy the evil, and has found it successful. He trims his vines in such a manner that some parts will make wood exclusively, and others produce grapes in the same year; and in the following year he uses the new limbs as fruit-bearers, and lops off the fruit-bearers of the first year, so that their places may be supplied with new branches to bear fruit in the third year. Thus, let 1, 2, 3, 4, represent the four main branches of a vine. He lops off in the fall 1 and 3, and suffers 2 and 4 to remain as fruit-bearers. The second year he lops off 2 and 4, and suffers the new growth on 1 and 3 to remain as fruit-bearers in the third year. The following will be the results for three years:—

In 1850, 2 and 4 will produce grapes.
In 1851, 1 and 3 " "
In 1852, 2 and 4 " "

Thus an annual supply of fruit will be insured by adopting this simple remedy.

E. B. R.

Springfield, Clark County, Ohio, 1849.

— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*

Potatoes and Cattle from the British Provinces.

Two vessels from Londonderry and Cornwallis, N. S., with potatoes, the former with a deck load of cattle, horses, and sheep, arrived here this morning. The cattle are brought here in consequence of the deficiency of the hay crop in the British Provinces.

— *Boston Traveller.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

From J. M. Ives, Salem, Mountain Sweet melon. This fruit was past its prime, but it gave evidence of its great excellence. This is regarded as one of the finest varieties of watermelons. Mr. Ives remarks that it is early. Also various kinds of apples and pears: among the former is the Can apple of Coxe, identical with Seaver Sweet, or Winter High Top, one of our finest kinds.

Of Charles L. Spaulding, Cavendish, Vt., New York Red potatoes, very mealy and fine. This is one of the few kinds that we have not yet had in our collection, which embraces about two hundred kinds. Mr. S. says this is not liable to rot, and it yields well. Also Irish Apple potatoes, of excellent quality, but rather liable to rot.

From Colonel Libbeus Chase, Cornish, N. H., various kinds of grapes, on which we shall report soon.

We have several varieties of apple, among them the Spaulding Sweet. The name of the donor is mislaid, and we should be pleased to receive it again.

THE ARMY WORM.

This destructive insect, which four or five weeks ago made a campaign in Southern Illinois, attacking hundreds of acres at a time, and sweeping off grass, oats, and late corn, all alike, has just made its appearance in Northern Wisconsin, where it is doing great damage. The Detroit Bulletin states that the worms are particularly destructive upon oats. They climb the stock, first cutting off the leaves and then the head. They move in droves from one field to another, their tracks across roads very much resembling that made by drawing hay or straw over mellow ground. Complaints are made of their ravages in Dodge, Fon du Lac, and Brown counties. — *Cincinnati Gazette.*

CUTTING OFF THE STEMS OF POTATOES.

Mr. C. Wood, of Wadsworth Common, England, says, in a communication in the Agricultural Gazette, —

"I have followed the plan ever since 1845, with success. I had the tops cut off, last year, quite in a green state, long before the tubers could possibly be either ripe or have finished their growth; and, when taken up, they were fine in size, and of excellent quality. I have a few of them left yet, (July 10,) in a perfectly sound state. The only difference in the plan pursued by Mr. Lomba and mine, consists in putting a layer of earth over the surface — a practice in which I can see no value. I usually remove the haum on the first appearance of the botrytes (disease) on the under sides of the leaves. I have already taken it off my early sorts, and I am satisfied, from experience, that, if this is strictly attended to, no one need fear the disease, either in wet or dry, rich or poor soils."

GENEROSITY.

True generosity does not consist in obeying every impulse of humanity, in following blind passion for our guide, and impairing our circumstances by present benefactions, so as to render us incapable of future ones. — *Goldsmith.*

THE INDIAN SUMMER.

There is a time, just ere the frost
Prepares to pave old Winter's way,
When Autumn, in a revery lost,
The mellow daytime dreams away.

When Summer comes, in musing mind,
To gaze once more on hill and dell,
To mark how many sheaves they bind,
And see if all is ripened well, —

With balmy breath she whispers low;
The dying flowers look up, and give
Their sweetest incense, ere they go,
For her who bade their beauties live.

She bends above the quiet pool
In which the rill forgets to play;
The frolic eddies quickly school
Their eyes of glass her transient stay.

She enters 'neath the woodland shade;
Her zephyrs lift the lingering leaf,
And bear it gently where are laid
The loved and lost ones of its grief.

She seeks the shore; old ocean heaves,
In gladness huge, his mighty breast,
Prisons his wild winds in their caves,
And basking in her smiles, is blest.

At last old Autumn, rousing, takes
Again his sceptre and his throne;
With boisterous hand the trees he shakes,
Intent on gathering all his own.

Sweet Summer, sighing, flies the plain,
And waiting Winter, gaunt and grim,
Sees miser Autumn hoard his grain,
And smiles to think 'tis all for him!

— *Home Journal.*

THE OLIO.

"The tree is known by its fruit." The only exception to this is the *dog*-wood, which is known by its *bark!*

"Charles," said a father to his son, while they were working in a saw-mill, "what possesses you to associate with such girls as you do? When I was of your age, I could go with the first cut." "But," said Charles, "the first cut is the slab."

Why should we open our hearts to the world? It laughs at our weakness; it does not believe our virtues; it does not pity our sorrows.

There is an English statute, where one half goes to the king, and the other half to the informer — the penalty being *fourteen years' transportation.*

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be neatly bound at 18¾ cents, or elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

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